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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/27/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [UZ](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON DEPORTATION OF UZBEK ASYLUM SEEKER
DELIVERED TO MFA

REF: STATE 185048

Classified By: Political M/C Alice G. Wells. Reasons: 1.4(B/D).

11. (C) We met November 22 with MFA Human Rights and Humanitarian Cooperation Department Deputy Director Mikhail Lebedev and his staff to discuss the deportation of Rustam Muminov to Uzbekistan and to underline U.S. concerns about deportation of other asylum seekers to Uzbekistan given Tashkent's record on torture. Lebedev was aware of Muminov's case and attributed the deportation to a lack of coordination between Russian government agencies. He pointed out that his limited staff did not usually get involved in individual cases, which they were often unaware of until there was a complaint from another government or a human rights organization.

12. (C) Turning to the question of Uzbekistan's record on torture, Lebedev said that Russia did not agree with the conclusions of the U.N. Special Rapporteur. While Moscow did have concerns in some cases, the MFA could not conclude that torture in Uzbekistan was systemic.
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